

Solutions: Examining Distributions

Checkpoint 1

The following 5 questions relate to the same histogram, shown below.

Question 1

Students will see one of the following two questions, chosen at random.

Option 1:

The histogram below displays the distribution of 50 ages at death due to trauma (accidents and homicides) that were observed in a certain hospital during a week.

Age	Frequency
10-15	3
15-20	18
20-25	13
25-30	6
30-35	5
35-40	3
40-45	1
45-50	1

What percentage of deaths were individuals younger than 35?

☐ (a) 34%

☐ (b) 60%

☐ (c) 68%

☐ (d) 70%

☐ (e) 80%

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (c)

Option 2:

This histogram shows the times, in minutes, required for 25 rats in a animal behavior experiment to successfully navigate a maze.

Time in Minutes	Frequency
2-3	3
3-4	8
4-5	6
5-6	4
6-7	2
7-8	1
8-9	1

What percentage of the rats navigated the maze in less than 5.5 minutes?

☐ (a) 34%

☐ (b) 60%

☐ (c) 68%

☐ (d) 70%

☐ (e) 84%

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (e)

Question 2

Students will see one of the following two questions, chosen to correspond with the scenario they saw in question 1.

Option 1:

Here again is the histogram showing the distribution of 50 ages at death due to trauma (accidents and homicides) that were observed in a certain hospital during a week.

Age	Frequency
10-15	3
15-20	18
20-25	13
25-30	6
30-35	5
35-40	3
40-45	1
45-50	1

Which of the following best describes the shape of the histogram?

☐ (a) Symmetric

☐ (b) Left-skewed with no outliers

☐ (c) Right-skewed with no outliers

☐ (d) Left-skewed with a possible outlier

☐ (e) Right-skewed with a possible outlier

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (e)

Option 2:

Here again is the histogram showing the times, in minutes, required for 25 rats in a animal behavior experiment to successfully navigate a maze.

Time in Minutes	Frequency
2-3	3
3-4	8
4-5	6
5-6	4
6-7	2
7-8	1
8-9	1

Which of the following best describes the shape of the histogram?

☐ (a) Symmetric

☐ (b) Left-skewed with no outliers

☐ (c) Right-skewed with no outliers

☐ (d) Left-skewed with a possible outlier

☐ (e) Right-skewed with a possible outlier

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (e)

Question 3

Students will see one of the following two questions, chosen to correspond with the scenario they saw in question 1.

Option 1:

Here again is the histogram showing the distribution of 50 ages at death due to trauma (accidents and homicides) that were observed in a certain hospital during a week.

Age	Frequency
10-15	3
15-20	18
20-25	13
25-30	6
30-35	5
35-40	3
40-45	1
45-50	1

For the data described by the above histogram,

☐ (a) the median will be bigger than the mean.

☐ (b) the median will be smaller than the mean.

☐ (c) the median and the mean will be about the same.

☐ (d) the median and the range will be about the same.

☐ (e) both (b) and (d) are correct.

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (b)

Option 2:

Here again is the histogram showing the times, in minutes, required for 25 rats in a animal behavior experiment to successfully navigate a maze.

Time in Minutes	Frequency
2-3	3
3-4	8
4-5	6
5-6	4
6-7	2
7-8	1
8-9	1

For the data described by the above histogram,

☐ (a) the median will be smaller than the mean.

☐ (b) the median will be larger than the mean.

☐ (c) the median and the mean will be about the same.

☐ (d) the median and the range will be about the same.

☐ (e) both (a) and (d) are correct.

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (a)

Question 4

Students will see one of the following two questions, chosen to correspond with the scenario they saw in question 1.

Option 1:

Here again is the histogram showing the distribution of 50 ages at death due to trauma (accidents and homicides) that occurred in a certain hospital during a week.

Age	Frequency
10-15	3
15-20	18
20-25	13
25-30	6
30-35	5
35-40	3
40-45	1
45-50	1

A possible value of the median in this example is:

☐ (a) 23

☐ (b) 45

☐ (c) 50

☐ (d) 33

☐ (e) It is impossible to answer without seeing all of the data.

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (d)

Option 2:

Here again is the histogram showing the times, in minutes, required for 25 rats in a animal behavior experiment to successfully navigate a maze.

Time in Minutes	Frequency
2-3	3
3-4	8
4-5	6
5-6	4
6-7	2
7-8	1
8-9	1

A possible value of the median in this example is:

☐ (a) 3.3

☐ (b) 3.9

☐ (c) 4.6

☐ (d) 5.5

☐ (e) It is impossible to answer without seeing all of the data.

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (b)

Question 5

Students will see one of the following two questions, chosen to correspond with the scenario they saw in question 1.

Option 1:

Here again is the histogram showing the distribution of 50 ages at death due to trauma (accidents and homicides) that were observed in a certain hospital during a week.

Age	Frequency
10-15	3
15-20	18
20-25	13
25-30	6
30-35	5
35-40	3
40-45	1
45-50	1

Assume that the largest observation in this dataset is 90. If this observation were wrongly recorded as 900, then:

☐ (a) Both the mean and the median will not change.

☐ (b) Both the mean and the median will change.

☐ (c) The mean will stay the same, but the median will change.

☐ (d) The mean will decrease, but the median won't change.

☐ (e) The mean will increase, but the median won't change.

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (e)

Option 2:

Here again is the histogram showing the times, in minutes, required for 25 rats in a animal behavior experiment to successfully navigate a maze.

Time in Minutes	Frequency
2-3	3
3-4	8
4-5	6
5-6	4
6-7	2
7-8	1
8-9	1

Assume that the largest observation in this dataset is 8.6 minutes. If this observation were wrongly recorded as 86, then:

☐ (a) Both the mean and the median will not change.

☐ (b) Both the mean and the median will change.

☐ (c) The mean will stay the same, but the median will change.

☐ (d) The mean will decrease, but the median won't change.

☐ (e) The mean will increase, but the median won't change.

Select one answer.
10 points

Correct answer: (e)

Please answer the question below. Your response will not be graded, but will be available for your instructor to read.

Question 6

What determines which numerical measures of center and spread are appropriate for describing a given distribution of a quantitative variable? Which measures will you use in each case?

0 points